

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] the Poles were trying to hasten the expansion of the Polish armored branch, partly through Russian help. [redacted] two Russian-speaking captains from the armored branch who were wearing Polish uniforms, and [redacted] the number of officers in the armored branch seems to have risen more than the number of officers in other branches. [redacted] a great number of tanks, which must be much larger than the well-known T-34 type, have been observed in the Krosno (R50/Z74)-Sanok (R50/V02) area. 25X1
2. The largest rise in the number of officers has been noted in the WOP (Military Border Guard). These observations have especially been made in Warsaw, Nowy Targ (Q50/Y53), and Zakopane. A large new WOP caserne to accommodate about 250 men has been constructed in Lysa Polana near Zakopane. The WOP caserne in Koscielisko (Q50/Y31) has also been expanded.
3. It seems unquestionable that the Polish Army's strength has grown much during the last year. [redacted] the army consists of approximately 180,000 men. [redacted] the army could have reached 500,000 men, which is mentioned in some German newspapers; [redacted] the expansion of the casernes which, if it is supposed that there was a normal number of troops in 1951, today could not hold more than for example the double number, regardless of the expansion of present casernes. Among these [redacted] Okecie airfield and Lysa Polana and casernes in Serock. There is always a remarkably large number of officers in relation to soldiers, especially in Warsaw. 25X1
4. The enlistment of labor troops seems to be quite considerable. There have been reports of several large tent camps, which were not there a year ago, among other places, in the Czestochowa district and in Upper Silesia. 25X1
5. The guarding of military objects, among these airfields, seems to be very effective. A diplomat who by mistake passed a stop sign at the airfield in Lubrochnia (sic) was held for eight hours. A blameless Polish woman, who accompanied the

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diplomat, was held for several days. The radio station in Raszyn (R53/P98) is surrounded by a double, some places a triple, barbed wire fence with sentry boxes about 20 meters apart..

6. The control of train passengers seems to be very strict, and is exercised both in the trains and at the entrances and exits of the railway stations. Foreign passengers are possibly exposed to stricter control than the Poles. There is only slight automobile traffic on the highways where the control also is very strict. It takes place partly at stationary control posts, of which there are 10-12 between Swinoujscie (Swinemünde) and Warsaw, and partly by mobile control patrols. The military traffic is controlled by special military control cars. It is very difficult for foreigners to get around in the country where they seem to be followed very strictly by the Security Police. Quite often one or two men follow foreigners to church, to museums, restaurants, etc. They have gone so far that even after a visit in a church they checked to see if the visitor has left letters at the church benches, the altar, tomb stones or other places.
7. [redacted] some time ago it was mentioned in the order of the day that there were 9,000 deserters in the Polish Army. [redacted]
[redacted]
8. An ordinary rumor says that the number of partisans in the woods has increased very fast. This is mostly in woods around Tuchola (P54/N70) and in woods between the Vistula and the Russian border. The partisans' activities are only slight. In July a group is supposed to have killed seven members of the UB (Security Police) near Wlodawa (S52/M71) by the Russian border.
9. In May 1952 the Polish government carried out a counter-measure by dropping a large number of parachute troops in American uniforms in the Szpakci community near Siedlce. The paratroopers were equipped with dollars and sought and found connections with and aid from the local population as well as partisans, of which approximately 300 were arrested. They were jailed in Siedlce, and were guarded by KBW (Internal Security Corps) troops who were armed with heavy machine guns.
10. The actual nucleus of the Polish resistance forces will strongly oppose any activity at the present time. The staff, even in case of war, would refrain from any action until it could be described as justifiable, not only from the military aspect but from the political as well. This attitude might make the staff lose its hold on several groups, who probably would start spontaneous and rash sabotage and actions. [redacted] the staff will do its best to lessen these, until it is considered timely.
11. On 22 May 1952 Polish officers received permission to carry and to take home their weapons plus 16 cartridges. This happened according to a special order of the day, in which they emphasized the reliability of the Polish officers' corps. It has also become easier for the officers to attend shooting practice, and they are encouraged more to go to these than they were before.

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